

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NEW DE 11668 181302Z  
ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /028 W  
-----082019 181309Z /43  
O 181236Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5483

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 11668

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM GOHEEN

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFRO, IN  
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

REF: STATE 194503

1. I FOUND THE LIST OF SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES  
YOU SENT FOR MY REVIEW TO BE GENERALLY A SUCCINCT  
SUMMARY OF WHAT WE ARE--AND SHOULD BE--TRYING TO DO  
IN INDIA. I WOULD SUGGEST ONLY A FEW AMENDMENTS.

2. I AM CONCERNED BY THE FORMULATION IN THE SECOND  
SUBPARAGRAPH OF THE BILATERAL GOALS (PARA Q-). I  
THINK THE SECOND OF THESE GOALS AS STATED SUGGESTS  
A RETURN TO THE THINKING OF THE SIXTIES, WHEN WE  
TENDED TO SEE OURSELVES IN A COMPETITIVE RELATIONSHIP  
HERE WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN THE MILITARY SUPPLY  
FIELD AND ELSEWHERE. I BELIEVE A BETTER APPROACH--  
ONE WHICH WOULD BOTH TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEW INDIAN  
GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS OF ITS RELATIONS WITH MAJOR POWERS  
AND REFLECT MORE REALISTICALLY WHAT WE ARE PREPARED  
TO DO FOR THE INDIA--MIGHT BE PHRASED ALONG THESE  
LINES:

--ENCOURAGE INDIA TO CONTINUE TO BRING ABOUT A  
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BETTER BALANCE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THE  
SOVIET UNION, THROUGH THE ABOVE MEANS AND THE DEMON-  
STRATION OF RESPECT AND RELIABILITY.

--ACT RESPONSIVELY TO INDIAN REQUESTS FOR ASSIST-  
ANCE, INCLUDING MILITARY SALES WHEN THEY ARE CON-  
SISTENT WITH OUR FPUH ASIAN ARMS TRANSFER POLICY.

3. THE NEXT SUB-PARAGRAPH MIGHT ALSO BE SLIGHTLY MODIFIED TO REFLECT OUR SATISFACTION, EXPRESSED HERE STRONGLY LAST MONTH BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, WITH THE EFFORTS THE DESAI GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY TAKEN TO IMPROVE ITS REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS. I WOULD SUGGEST:

-- ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE GOI IN ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, CHINA, BANGLADESH, AND OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

4. I WOULD ALSO SUGGEST A BROADENING OF THE WORDING IN THE FINAL SUB-PARAGRAPH OF THE SECTION OF ECONOMIC GOALS TO READ:

-- ENCOURAGE THE GOI TO ADOPT POLICIES WHICH WILL LEAD TO AN EXPANSION OF US TRADE AND US PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN INDIAN DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WORK TOWARDS EARLY COMPLETION OF THE DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY.

5. WE MUST BE REALISTIC IN OUR THINKING AND OUR SIGNALS. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT KNOW IF THERE IS SCOPE FOR SUCH A CAUTIONARY NOTE IN THE STATEMENT OF GOALS ITSELF, I WOULD WARN AGAINST OUR ADOPTING A POSTURE WHICH IMPLIES EITHER A GREATER COMMITMENT THAN THE  
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US MAY LATER BE WILLING TO MAKE OR A GREATER PROSPECT OF CHANGE IN GOI POLICIES THAN THE INDIANS MAY BE WILLING TO MAKE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE DISCOURAGE UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS BOTH IN INDIA AND THE US THAT MIGHT AGAIN LEAD US ONTO THE ROLLER COASTER OF PAST EXPERIENCE.  
GOHEEN

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009